Bugs, Bytes and Glitches

Information and Communications Technology Team
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Index

US Computer Hardware Shipments to Selected RFID Markets			
Country	**2003**	**2004**	**% Chg '03 – 04**
N. America	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada	6,910,080	7,512,009	8.7%
USA	N/A	N/A	N/A
S. America	N/A	N/A	N/A
Brazil	919,115	1,011,000	10.0%
Chile	290,436	350,046	20.5%
Asia	N/A	N/A	N/A
Australia	641,872	642,165	0.0%
China	1,233,073	1,342,789	8.9%
India	337,923	388,768	15.0%
Japan	2,583,685	2,458,852	-4.8%
Korea	758,700	680,109	-10.4%
Europe	N/A	N/A	N/A
Germany	2,049,695	1,948,597	-4.9%
France	39,200,240	41,839,257	6.7%
UK	2,520,552	2,807,625	11.4%

RFID

What is Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)?

A basic RFID system consist of three components:

- An antenna or coil
- A transceiver (with decoder)
- A transponder (RF tag) electronically programmed with unique information

RFID tags come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Animal tracking tags, inserted beneath the skin, can be as small as a pencil lead in diameter and one-half inch in length. Tags can be screw-shaped to identify trees or wooden items, or credit-card shaped for use in access applications. The anti-theft hard plastic tags attached to merchandise in stores are RFID tags. In addition, heavy-duty 5- by 4- by 2-inch rectangular transponders used to track intermodal containers or heavy machinery, trucks, and railroad cars for maintenance and tracking applications are RFID tags. Please see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RFID for more information about this dynamic market.

RFID Market to Exceed $6 billion Worldwide by 2010
Datamonitor: Germany, UK expected to be dominant European countries for RFID into the future

New York — May 27, 2005 — Independent market analyst Datamonitor predicts that radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, including hardware, software and services across all verticals, will be a $6.1 billion market by 2010, three times that of today.

In its report "RFID in Manufacturing: The race to radio-tag is heating up in manufacturing," the firm predicts

43 percent of revenues will be derived from North America; 33 percent from Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA); and 21 percent from Asia Pacific (APAC). Central and Latin America will account for 3 percent of global expenditure ($185 million).

Source: SupplyChain Executive / DataMonitor

North America

Canada

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Beyond Customer Mandate

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a transformative technology that will impact productivity and sustainability across most industrial sectors. Many manufacturers, transport companies, third-party logistics (3PL) and wholesalers are on the way to being RFID-compliant at the request of their large customers. Although RFID is applicable in theory in all industrial sectors, very few firms have found a way to demonstrate a solid business case for implementing RFID aside from maintaining an existing sales channel. This joint research project conducted by Industry Canada, Supply Chain & Logistics Canada (SCL) and industry leaders across sectors aims to provide guidance to small and medium-sized enterprises and their large customers about the benefits of supply chain industrial sustainability and RFID applications beyond customer mandates.

This guidance document provides firms with access to the latest trends and tools to evaluate the impact, opportunity and barriers of RFID for their organization. Firms will also be able to develop an RFID roadmap that will suit their business needs.

The sponsors and authors are grateful for the assistance of the firms and individuals who participated in the committees, workshops and information gathering. The opinions contained in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of Industry Canada, SCL as well as the industry contributors.

Source: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Beyond Customer Mandate, Strategis. Note: This is an extensive study of RFID and it's applications in Canada.

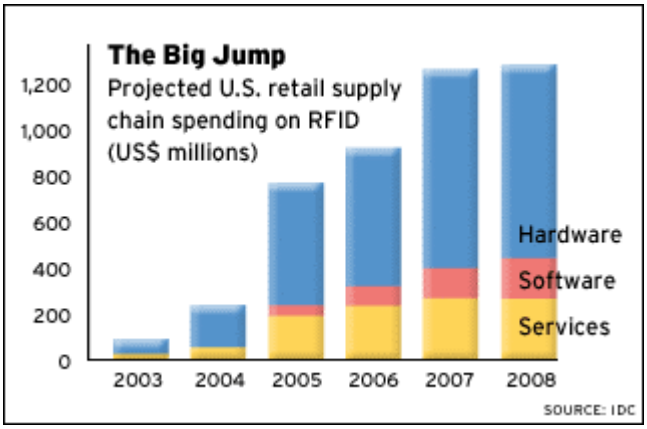
Suggested Links:

- www.epcglobalcanada.org - EPCglobal Canada, Inc (Established 2003), 885 Don Mills Road Suite 301, Toronto Ontario M3C1V9, Canada, Phone: +1.416-510-8039 x2374, Fax: +1.416.510.8043, President & CEO: Arthur SMITH, General Contact: Jack Brooks Email: Jackb@epcglobalcanada.org

USA

IDC Forecasts Bubble, Burst, Boom

Jan. 12, 2004—IDC, the technology market research and advisory firm, has published a new report that forecasts the market for RFID technology in the U.S. retail supply chain will rise from $91.5 million last year to $1.3 billion in 2008. But the real growth may come after that, according to Christopher Boone, the report's author.



The report can be purchased for $4,500 from IDC's Web site.

Source: RFID Journal / IDC

Suggested Links

- http://www.aimglobal.org/ - AIM is a global trade association comprising providers of components, networks, systems, and services that manage the collection and integration of data with information management systems. Serving more than 900 members in 43 countries, AIM is dedicated to accelerating the growth and use of AIDC technologies and services around the world.
- http://www.aimglobal.org/ - Aim Members in North America
- http://www.rfidlowdown.com/ - RFID Lowdown - News and information on RFID.

- http://www.rfidgazette.org/ - RFID Gazette - Radio Frequency Identification news and commentary.

- http://www.rfidjournal.com/ - RFID Journal, 555 Broadhollow Road, Suite 274, Melville, NY 11747, Phone: 1-631-249-4989, Fax: 1-631-980-4314. RFID Journal is the only independent media company devoted solely to radio frequency identification and its many business applications. Our mission: to help companies use RFID technology to improve the way they do business.

- http://www.rfidlog.com/index.php - RFID Log is a non partisan Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Resource site.

- http://www.rfidnews.org/ - RFID News published by AVISIAN

- www.EPCglobalUS.org - EPCglobal US (Established 2003), Princeton Pike Corporate Center, 1009 Lenox Drive, Suite 202, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, USA, Phone: +1.609.620.4549 , Fax: +1.609.620.0255 President: Mr. Mike Meranda, EPCglobal Contact: Mr. John Seaner, Email: EPCInfo@EPCglobalUS.org. EPCGlobal's main goal is accelerating adoption of the EPCglobal Network, which combines Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, existing communications network infrastructure, and the Electronic Product Code (EPC).

South America

Brazil

H-P Investment

Investment has been growing year-on-year by at least 20% and we expect this to continue says Darlei de Abreu, Director of R&D in Brazil for H-P.

This year, the US giant also invested US$2mn to install a center of excellence in radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in São Paulo state. The research conducted here is applicable to solutions for all of Latin America.

VeriChip Corp. Signs Five-Year, Exclusive Distribution Agreement for Brazil

Applied Digital Solutions, Inc. (Nasdaq: ADSX), an advanced technology development company, today announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, VeriChip Corporation, has signed a five-year, exclusive distribution agreement with Metro Risk Management Group, LLC, for the country of Brazil.

About the size of a grain of rice, VeriChip(TM) is the world's first subdermal, radio frequency identification (RFID) microchip that can be used in a variety of security, financial, emergency identification and other applications.

Under the terms of the new distribution agreement for Brazil, the initial order consists of more than 800 VeriChips and 24 proprietary scanners. The five-year distribution agreement for Brazil requires the distributor to meet annual minimum purchase requirements in order to maintain exclusive distribution rights in that country. Over the five years covered by this agreement, the minimum purchase requirement is 75,000 VeriChips and 3800 proprietary scanners.

Suggested Links:

- www.eanbrasil.org.br - EAN Brasil - Associação Brasileira de Automação (Established 1985), Alameda Santos, 2441 - 10° Andar, San Paulo 01419-002, Brazil, Phone: 55 11 30816560, Fax: 55 11 30643275 CEO: Sergio Ribinik, EPCglobal Contact: Sergio Ribinik, Email: sribinik@eanbrasil.org.br

- http://www.aimglobal.org/aboutaim/AIMBrazil_chapter_Members.asp - Aim Brazil Members

Chile

Digital Angel approved by Uruguay and Chile

Digital Angel Corporation has received government approval from Uruguay and Chile to operate in those countries, further expanding the company's presence in the growing livestock markets of South America. Digital Angel already has offices in Argentina and Brazil and there are currently more than 200 million cattle being raised. To date, Digital Angel has sold some 30,000 RFID livestock tags in Chile and nearly 50,000 visual livestock tags in Uruguay. The new operations in Uruguay and Chile are considered to be important components in the company's global strategy, and will complement its existing operations in Argentina and Brazil.

Suggested Links:

- www.gs1chile.org - GS1 Chile (Established 1989), Merced 230, Santiago – Centro, Chile, Phone: 56 2 3654031, Fax: 56 2 3654222, CEO: Alejandro Prieto, EPCglobal Contact: Alejandro Prieto, Email: aprieto@eanchile.cl

Asia

Australia

Radio frequency identification (RFID) is a key technology for the packaging industry. While many Australian companies have a high awareness of RFID and watch developments closely, discussions within the packaging industry suggest that they have been rather slow to trial and adopt the technology. The merits of RFID are still largely being monitored, with companies taking a learning and experimenting approach prior to implementation. Major retailers have yet to switch to RFID systems or require suppliers to use RFID tags. has been established to advise businesses on adopting the technology. EAN Australia to rename as GS1 in July 2005, is responsible for administering and implementing RFID standards known as the Electronic Product Code.

Source: Packaging Equipment (Australia - 06/19/2005)

Suggested Links

- http://www.rfidaa.org/ - RFID Association of Australia
- http://www.ean.com.au/ - Victoria RFID Action Cluster
- http://home.att.net/~rfid/rfidlinks.htm - RFID Links on the Web
- http://www.rfidtalk.com/ - RFID Talk – Australian Blog.
- http://www.ean.com.au - EAN Australia Ltd (Established 1979), Axxess Corporate Park Unit 100/45 Gilby Rd, Mt Waverley VIC 3149 Locked Bag 10, Oakleigh, Victoria, 3166 Australia, Phone: 61 3 95589559, Fax: 61 3 95589551, CEO: Maria Palazzolo, EPCglobal Contact: Fiona Wilson, Email: fwilson@ean.com.au

China

China – Radio Frequency Identification in China

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems will play a crucial role in international commerce and will become a new and important technology development trend in China's Information Technology fields in the next several years. China understands the power of RFID for improving the efficiency of manufacturing, supply chain operations, and data collection. As a leader in global manufacturing, China plans to move ahead with the development of RFID standards, whether they are national standards, international standards, or a combination of both. As China is poised to become the largest RFID application market in the world, the importance of RFID standards in enabling interoperability of RFID systems is paramount. China is not only one of the world's important manufacturing and assembling bases, but, as the third largest trading country, is also a key consumer market as well.

In 2005, the development and application of RFID is regarded as the key project of the China Golden Card project. This could provide more opportunities to U. S. exporters, as China will require more equipment and technology related to this field. Furthermore, the development of RFID standards in China is at a critical phase, as fragmented standards will severely impact a burgeoning technology expected to have a potential market value of over seven billion dollars by 2008.

Source: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in China (China - 07/25/2005)

RFID in China: Uneven Growth

Has RFID technology in China matured? That depends on what frequency and standards you're referring to, says a new study from ABI Research, an Oyster Bay, N.Y., market researcher. Applications using RFID devices that operate in the low-frequency range have matured and are widely deployed for such things as access control. High-frequency applications are also strong and serve the largest RFID markets—namely, identification and transportation (such as highway toll collection cards). Ultra-high frequency applications, however, are still in the start-up phase, says the report's author, Junmei He. The regulation of the UHF band in China is still evolving, and ABI Research does not expect to see a national Chinese UHF RFID standard published in 2006. The author notes that the high costs of UHF products and problems with readability are also holding Chinese companies back from moving forward with UHF applications. The report

suggests, however, that companies should consider the use of UHF RFID in closed-loop environments, where technology standards are not as relevant as in open-loop applications. The report is available at ABI's Web site for $4,000.

Source: RFID Journal

RFID and China

As rulers of the world's largest potential RFID market, Chinese leaders view the setting of RFID standards as critical to its economic strategy.

China is the manufacturing capital of the world and the largest market for technology. Currently, the country is home to 95 million Internet users. With usage growing faster then 20 percent a year, China will have more Internet users than any other country by 2006. It already has the largest installed base of both landlines (314 million) and mobile telephones (334 million). Within this economic framework, China lays claim to being the largest potential RFID market in the world. And since the standards bearer holds an economic advantage, Chinese political officials have stated that their nation needs to be involved in the setting of RFID standards.

Source: RFID Journal

Suggested Links

- http://www.aimglobal.org/ - AIM members in China
- http://www.chinarfid.org - China RFID Group, Inc., 0224 Miner Place, Cupertino, CA 95014, USA , Tel: 1-408-892-6243, email: info@chinarfid.org. China Office - ChinaRFID – China, 23rd Floor, Jin Yu 100 Xi San Huan Bei Lu, Haidian, Beijing 100037 China , Tel: 86-10-8842-2925, email: info_china@chinarfid.org
- http://www.ancc.org.cn - ANCC - Article Numbering Centre of China (Established 1991) East Gate - 46 Yuzhongxili Dewai, Xicheng District, Beijing 100029, China, Phone: 86 10 62024533, Fax: 86 10 62024523, CEO: Chenghai Zhang, EPCglobal Contact: Kong Hongliang, Email: konghl@ancc.org.cn

India

Can RFID Catalyze India's Growth?

"RFID offers tremendous potential for catalyzing India's growth and development. However, the potential of RFID cannot be taken for granted, as there are many challenges en route," noted Kris Gopalakrishnan, COO, Infosys Technologies Ltd, at the EPCGlobal RFID event.

Delivering a keynote address, Gopalakrishnan, spoke at length about the challenges that India faced in its attempts to capitalize on the RFID revolution. He pointed out the urgent need to allocate UHF spectrum that is aligned with international standards and urged the government to take necessary steps in this regard.

Elaborating on the RFID revolution and its opportunities in India, Gopalakrishnan stated, "Not only does RFID afford the opportunity to build on our proven software services strengths, we now also have the opportunity to leverage our high level of engineering skills and lower cost manufacturing capabilities to be at the forefront of a virtually new segment of IT hardware."

Source: CXOToday

India Adopts 865-867 MHz for RFID

Regulators in India recently designated 865-867 MHz as the country's UHF RFID spectrum, in line with the frequencies used by the United States and Europe.

July 5, 2005—In a move expected to kick-start RFID adoption among Indian companies, regulators in India recently designated UHF RFID spectrum in accordance with the frequencies used by Europe and the United States.

The Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing of India's Ministry of Communication assigned the 865-867 MHz UHF band for use by RFID devices. The ruling was part of a process initiated by EPCglobal India, a joint industry-government initiative that is leading the development of electronic product code to support the use of RFID.

"India has a strong export economy, so getting this spectrum was an absolute must," says Ravi Mathur, CEO of EPOGlobal India, which is based in New Dehli.

Source: RFID Journal

Suggested Links:

- http://www.gs1india.org/ - EAN India, (Established 1995), 19, Barakhamba Road 502-503, 5th Floor, Arunachal Building New Delhi, 110 001 India, Phone: 91 11 23719638 or 23713117 or 23713112 or 23731638, Fax: +91 11 23719626, CEO: Ravi Mathur, EPCglobal Contact: Vinay Gupta Email: dushyant@eanindia.com

- http://www.aimglobal.org/aboutaim/AIMIndia_chapter_Members.asp - Aim India Members

Japan

Another exciting new development that could help Japanese component demand is in radio frequency identification (RFID). RFID is a promising new technology intended to replace bar codes as a means to manage inventory for retailers, trace delivery for distribution companies, identify origin of products for manufacturers, etc. The number of IC chips used for RFID products was 10.7 million in 2002, but this is expected to increase 100 fold to 1.1 billion by 2010.

RFID Related Market Size (million USD)	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005 (Forecast)*
Reader/Writer	43.8	47.2	62.9	90.9
Contact-less IC card, RFID Tag, etc.	27.4	81.9	73.1	108
Peripherals	53.6	11.5	15.6	24.3
Total	124.8	140.6	151.6	223.2

(Source: Japan Auto Identification System Association, April 15, 2005)

Unlike the barcode where identification is limited by line-of-sight, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and its reliance on radio waves does not require a straight-line alignment between the tags and readers. RFID has unique features including unique ID, contact-less readability, and data write and re-write capability.

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) outlined a "u-Japan" policy to promote a "ubiquitous network society" in their 2004 white paper on the status of information and communication in Japan. The paper portrayed RFID as a key component in such ubiquitous networks along with broadband and mobile Internet access and "intelligent home appliances". In 2005, RFID related markets (reader/writer, contact-less IC card, RFID tag, peripherals) are estimated at $223.2 million. The RFID tag market size is estimated at $40.9 million in 2005 and could grow to $244 million by 2010. RFID Applications are numerous: factory automation, distribution for retail stores, logistics, and amusement related applications are among the most promising.

RFID Demand Sectors	2002	2003	2004)	2005 *	2010 *
Factory Automation	47.2	41	38	32.3	0.5
Distribution (retail stores)	7.5	7.5	6.3	9.2	7.7
Logistics (warehouse, transportation)	23.6	28.4	27.2	30	86.7
Amusement Related	4.7	5.2	6.3	6.9	0.8
Rental, lease	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.2	0.4
Others	14.2	14.9	19	18.4	3.9

(Source: Yano Research Institute, December 2, 2004)

U.S. companies with cutting-edge technology, especially with products for 433 MHz and 950 MHz may wish to consider expanding their business to Japan.

Source: Radio Frequency Identification Tag (Japan - 07/01/2005)

Suggested Links

- http://www.jaisa.or.jp/english/index.html - Japan Automatic Identification System Association

- http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inimr-ri.nsf/en/gr121246e.html - RFID in Japan

- www.dsri-dcc.jp - DCC - Distribution Code Center (Established 1978), 3F Place Canada 7-3-37 Akasaka Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107- 0052 Japan, Phone: 81 3 5414 8505, Fax: 81 3 5414 8514, CEO: Mr. Takashi Inoue EPCglobal Contact: Yamato Miyahara Email: miyahara@dsri-dcc.jp

South Korea

The Korean market for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is still in the early stages of development as the technology itself is relatively new.

However, given the enormous variety of possible applications and the potential to drastically reduce supply chain costs, the market is expected to grow exponentially, both in Korea and globally, within the next few years. As a result, the Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) plans to encourage RFID development and commercialization throughout Korea, with the goal of capturing 5 percent, or USD one billion, of the global market by 2007. During that period MIC also forecasts that Korea's RFID market will create 25,000 jobs. MIC also forecasts development of new devices and related services including ID tags, tag readers, middleware software and solutions, location-based services and other applications to commercialize RFID technology will generate USD 3.5 billion in production by 2007. RFID pilot projects conducted by the Korean government, including MIC and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy (MOCIE), are expected to have a large ripple effect across industries and create even more demand for RFID as new applications and uses are discovered.

Source: Korean Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Market Overview (South Korea - 06/24/2005) .

Suggested Links:

- http://karus.or.kr/ - Korea Association of RFID/USN (KARUS)
- www.eankorea.or.kr - EAN Korea (Established 1988), Gateway Tower 6F, Dongja-dong 12, Yongsan-gu, South Korea, PO Box 41417 Seoul, 140 709 South Korea, Phone: 82 2 3111432, Fax: 82 2 3111452, CEO: Homin KANG, EPCglobal Contact: Homin KANG Email: hmkang@eankorea.or.kr

Europe

France

France Sets Its Sights On RFID

A recent study from Research Solutions sheds light on this dilemma. The study, which focuses on the French marketplace, comprises interviews with over 40 suppliers. It concludes the following:

1. Nearly all companies have added new tags to their product ranges over the last few months. A great number of them are about to expand their portfolio by the end of the year.
2. A good number of companies—mainly from the United States—have entered the market during the last few months. But they are scarcely known, as they haven't yet sold RFID products.
3. To boost their sales forces, a few suppliers are engaged in vast recruitment programs.

Another important conclusion that is revealed is that all of the companies that were involved in the study are trying to establish a position in the French RFID market. They're working toward this goal without knowing the key competencies of their competition. Nor do they know who their competitors are.
The study also reveals that not a single company has a clear idea of the number of suppliers that are currently operating in the market. Nor do they know how many suppliers are going to enter the market in the near future. The truth of the matter is that competition is very likely to increase significantly for three primary reasons:

1. Many suppliers are about to introduce ultra-high-frequency and hyper-high-frequency systems to their portfolios.
2. A lot of international businesses are currently striving to establish either a sales subsidiary or distributor on the French market.
3. Some scarcely known companies have patented high-performing devices that are different from the products that are commonly used in the market.

What does this information mean for the French marketplace? For starters, the French RFID market is still in the process of taking shape. The developments of the last few years and—more importantly—the past few months have proven that the number of companies that are providing RFID products is increasing much faster than the sales volume. If this trend continues, a good number of companies will be forced to depart from the market. There are two main reasons for this prediction. As the number of companies that are supplying RFID products increases and marketing communication intensifies, some suppliers are likely to be crushed by advertising and R&D cost pressures. Secondly, some suppliers are focusing on few applications. As a result, they may not have the anticipated feedback from current test pilots.

Source: Electronic Design

Suggested Links:

- www.eannet-france.org - GENCOD EAN France (Established 1977), 2, rue Maurice Hartmann, 92137 Issy les Moulineaux Cedex,

France, Phone: 33 1 40 95 54 10, Fax: 33 1 40 95 54 49, CEO: Pierre Georget, EPCglobal Contact: Xavier Barras, Email: xbarras@gencod-ean.fr

Germany

Container Security - Emerging Technology in German Port Security

Port security standards in general are determined by regulations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as laid down in the International Ship and Port Security Code (ISPS), in effect since July 2004. Whereas the port security industry in Germany is well advanced, the German market for electronic seals is in its early stages. At present, there are no set global standards for electronic seals to address the question of inter-operability of technical protocols, sensor interfaces, and radio frequencies. Due to this lack of agreement on standards for electronic container seal systems, the growth of the electronic seals market in Germany and worldwide remains stagnant. Nevertheless, prospects for electronic seals in Germany are positive. In an effort to harmonize security programs with the U.S.-led security initiatives, German ports, shipping companies, and container management firms are seeking to strengthen their security measures. According to industry sources, it is anticipated that by mid-2006, every sea container leaving German ports will be required to have an electronic seal.

Currently, there are more than 10 companies active in Germany developing various types of technologies that support the functions of electronic seals; however, the companies do not exclusively concentrate on sea container security. They are engaged in developing smart labels, mechanical locks, cameras, and other electronic devices for various modes of transport and functions across the logistic chain. Since the United States is a world leader in technology and know-how for electronic seals and supporting technology, American businesses have a strategic advantage in exporting their products, know-how, and services to Germany.

Standards for electronic seals are also being debated by institutions, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), with the aim to agree upon a radio frequency that can be used by all nations to ensure inter-operability. Currently, standards exist only for mechanical container seals and passive RFID tags. The following list summarizes the ISO codes on electronic container seals currently being developed:

- ISO/CD 18185-1: Freight Containers: Radio-frequency—Part 1: communication protocol for e-seals
- ISO/CD 18185-2: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 2: Application Requirements
- ISO/CD 18185-3: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 3: Environmental characteristics
- ISO/AWI 18185-4: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 4: Data protection
- ISO/AWI 18185-5: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 5: Sensor interface
- ISO/AWI 18185-6: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 6: Message sets for transfer between seal reader and host computer
- ISO/CD 18185-7: Freight Containers: E-seals—Part 7: Physical Layer

Source: Container Security - Emerging Technology in German Port Security (Germany - 06/27/2005).

Suggested Links

- http://www.aimglobal.org/ - AIM Members in Germany
- http://software.mbtmag.com/researchit/rating-rfid-packages-in-germany.asp - rating RFID software packages in Germany
- www.gs1-germany.de - GS1 Germany (Established 1977), Maarweg 133, Cologne, D-50825 Germany, Phone: 49 221 947 14 - 0 Fax: 49 221 947 14 – 990, CEO: Jörg Pretzel EPCglobal Contact: Dr Andreas Füßler, Email: fuessler@gs1-germany.de

United Kingdom

RFID UK

Let's see some case instances of RFID UK. The UK is the first country in the world to promote the use of RFID technology to reduce property crime.

UK companies shun RFID UK technology: New research carried out by the UK's leading supply chain efficiency association, shows that despite the hype, 85

per cent of UK companies have no plans to introduce radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in their organizations. The results of the survey, which spanned all industry sectors, have prompted leading supply chain efficiency association to call on companies to embrace the technology that is capable of dramatically improving supply chain efficiency.

The survey quizzed supply chain managers from medium to large enterprises and despite 88 per cent of those questioned agreeing that RFID was a beneficial technology; only eight per cent are using or piloting RFID in their organizations. The results for RFID UK are particularly surprising as a poll conducted last summer among a sample of FMCG retailers, found 40 per cent of respondents planning RFID deployment by 2005.

This study about RFID UK provides further evidence that retailers are driving forward the adoption of RFID technology, with other industries failing to grasp major opportunities for supply chain efficiency. Currently big name stores are conducting important trials, but the potential for other industries, such as healthcare, is vast.

Other top line findings from the survey included:

- 46 per cent of respondents agree that RFID technology could potentially deliver better results than existing technology
- 47 per cent of supply chain managers think that the current costs of RFID technology outweigh the potential benefits
- 78 per cent of respondents believe that privacy will not be an issue for consumers.

Suggested Links

- http://www.rfiduk.org/initiative/ - The Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) has invited AIM UK, as the independent association representing companies in the AIDC sector, to lead a new initiative into radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. This site is the National RFID Center.

- http://www.rfidc.com/ - The RFID Center is independent (founded by UK Government and commercial sponsors) to provide education on both business and technical issues. It is the first port of call for anyone evaluating radio frequency ID for their own organization, or to integrate with a trading partner who is planning to deploy RFID.

- http://www.rfid.ac/news.php - RFID.ac is an industry portal.

- http://www.usingrfid.com/ - Using RFID, Wise Research Ltd, 25 Shiremoor Hill, Merriott, Somerset, TA16 5PH, United Kingdom

- http://www.idtechex.com/index.asp - IDTechEx provides independent analysis on the development and application of RFID, smart packaging and printed electronics.

- www.gs1uk.org - GS1 UK (Established 1977) 10 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3BX United Kingdom, Phone: 44 (0)20 7655 9000, Helpdesk: 44 (0)20 7655 9001, Fax: 44 (0)20 7681 2290, CEO: Steve Coussins, EPCglobal Contact: David Lyon, Email: david.lyon@gs1uk.org

- http://www.aimglobal.org/aboutaim/AIMUK_chapter_Members.asp - AIM UK Members

Selected Events

- 22-24 Feb 2006 RFID Interactive – Real RFID Hyatt Regency, Newport Beach, CA

- 30-31 Jan 2006 Global RFID ROI Summit ExCel, London, United Kingdom

- 27-30 Mar 2006 RFID Smart Labels USA 2006 Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA, USA

- 7-9 Nov 2006 RFID Korea 2006, Coex, Seoul, S. Korea

- 27-29 Mar 2006 Supply Chain World North America Dallas, Texas, USA.

- 7-8 Mar 2006 Transpo 2006 Conference and Exhibition Toronto, Ontario, Canada.